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LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward the letter dated 23 December 1999 from Mr. Momir Bulatović, President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you, relative to the question of Prevlaka.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 23 December 1999 from the President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address you in connection with the forthcoming consideration of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) in the Security Council.

I would like to point out that my Government highly appreciates the contribution made by the United Nations Mission to the preservation of stability and the established system of security in the region of Prevlaka.

On behalf of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I am addressing you with a request that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNMOP for another period of six months, beginning on 15 January 2000.

Let me inform you of the current situation in connection with the solution of the disputed territorial issue of Prevlaka.

The delegations of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia for negotiations on the solution of the disputed issue of Prevlaka held their last, 4th meeting on 9 March 1999, whereafter the two sides exchanged argumentations on which each side bases its claim as to where the inter-State border in the area of Prevlaka extends. After that meeting, there followed an interruption of negotiations because of the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. By the termination of the aggression of NATO, conditions have been created for the resumption of negotiations and the Chairman of the Yugoslav delegation, Rodoljub Etinski, on 14 July 1999 informed the Chairman of the Croatian delegation, Hrvoje Kacic, that the Yugoslav delegation was ready to resume negotiations without delay. Also, it was said that the Yugoslav side expected that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of negotiations, Croatia should propose the holding of the next, 5th meeting in Zagreb.

The Croatian side has not yet extended to the Yugoslav side a concrete invitation to the meeting.

I would like to inform you that in the past period the Yugoslav side expressed its readiness to negotiate and consider comprehensively and completely the prepared argumentations both in the report submitted to the Secretary-General on 5 October 1999 (S/1999/1027, annex) and in a number of conversations of Yugoslav representatives with the representatives of the United Nations. From it all, it is clearly seen that the Yugoslav side cannot be blamed for the impasse in the negotiations.

In order to further the process of negotiations on the disputed issue of Prevlaka and to overcome the objections mentioned in the reports of the Secretary-General, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has taken a constructive approach by its decision to replace the units of the Army of Yugoslavia in the

north-western part of the area (Bjelotina) with members of the police. That decision of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia constitutes its gesture of good will and a contribution to a speedier solution of that disputed issue.

Attaching to the presence of the United Nations in Prevlaka a decisive importance for the resumption of negotiations in good faith pending a solution of the disputed issue by the two sides through negotiations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests UNMOP to carry out its mandate consistently and in an unchanged form. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects the Croatian side to carry out the obligations stemming from the Security Council resolution and the report of the Secretary-General relative to the maintenance of the regime of the Yellow Zone, and the regime of the Blue Zone in particular, the regime of which the Republic of Croatia has been drastically violating ever since the establishment of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka. This request is in accordance with the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia, signed at Belgrade on 23 August 1996 (S/1996/706, annex, article 4), in which the two sides have undertaken to solve this important question through mutual negotiations, and "until mutual agreement on Prevlaka, the Contracting Parties are agreed to respect the existing security regime established through United Nations monitoring".

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects that, in order to preserve peace and security in the region and to find a solution to the disputed issue of Prevlaka through negotiations, the Security Council will decide to extend the mandate of UNMOP until 15 July 2000 in an unchanged form.

(Signed) Momir BULATOVIĆ